



An exploration of children's nurses attitudes to caring for children with a developmental/learning disability.

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Attitudes of Children's Nurses to Caring for Children With a Learning or Developmental Disability

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Background

- Overlap of children's nurses and learning disability nurses
- Danger of falling between two stools
- Map attitudes and establish baseline
- Requirement for completion of MSc

Aim

- To determine if there was a difference between children's nurses and adult nurses in their attitudes to people with disability
- To establish a baseline of children's nurses attitudes

Sample

Respondents were nurses on part 8 or 15 of the NMC register

Hospital	Number sent	Number returned	Percentage returned
Regional	337	81	24%
District	211	119	56%
Total	548	200	36.5%

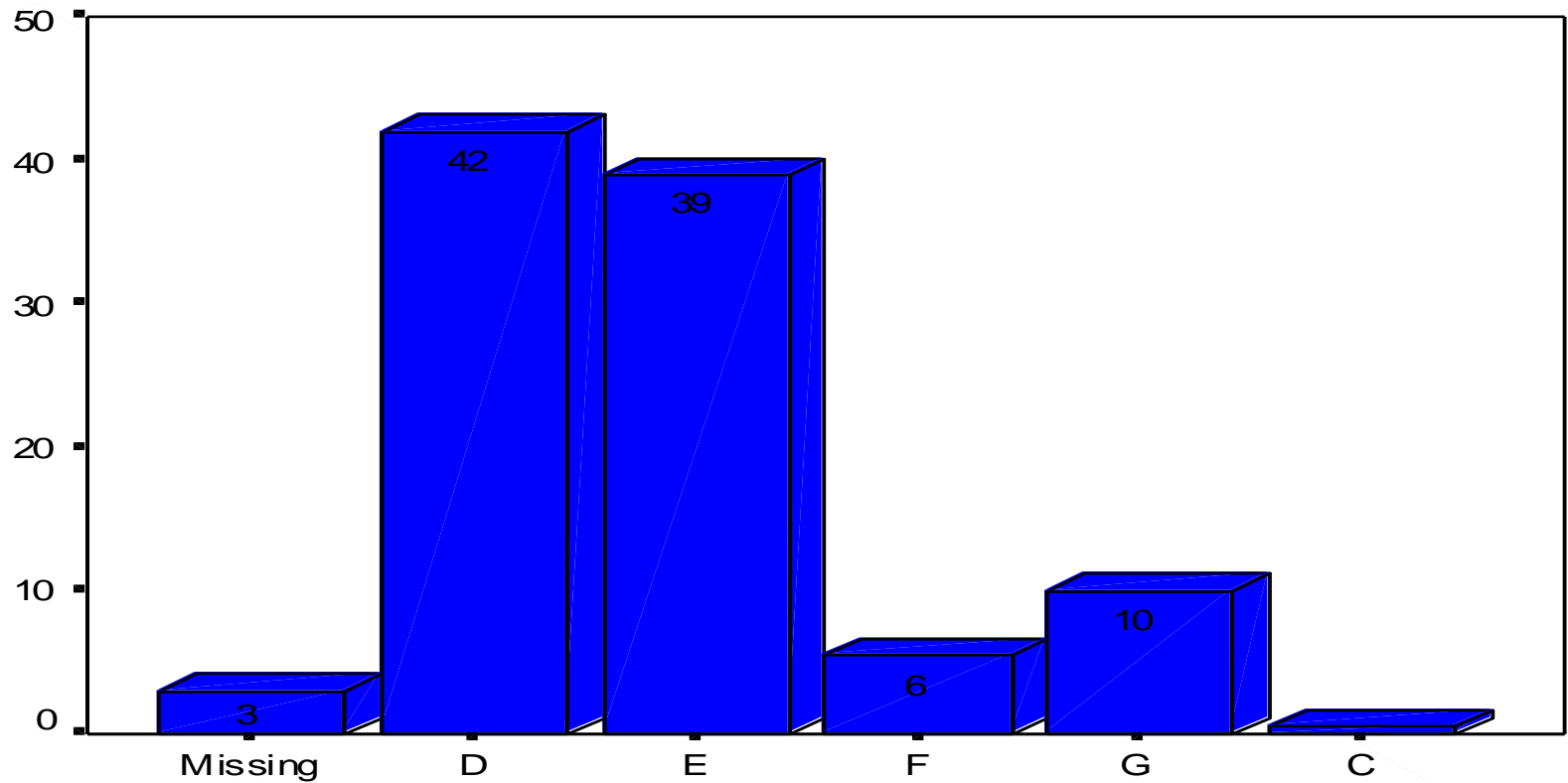
Data was available from a previous sample of 269 adult nurses

Methodology

- Pre-existing attitude scale developed by McConkey & Truesdale
- Modified to reflect children's nursing with items edited and/or added
- Ethical approval granted by LRC and Trusts involved
- Postal survey
- Data analysed using SPSS v.10

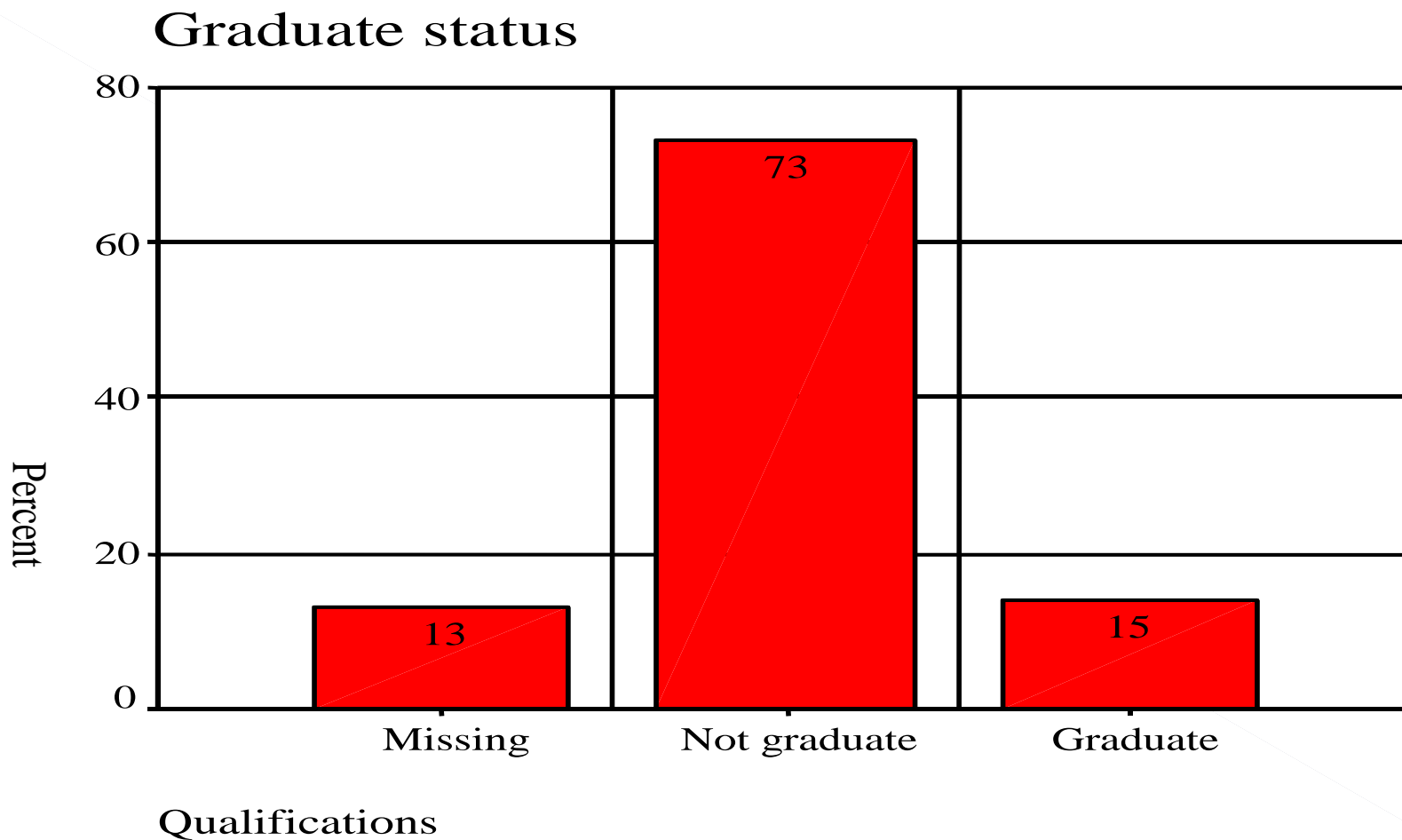
Results

What Grade are you?

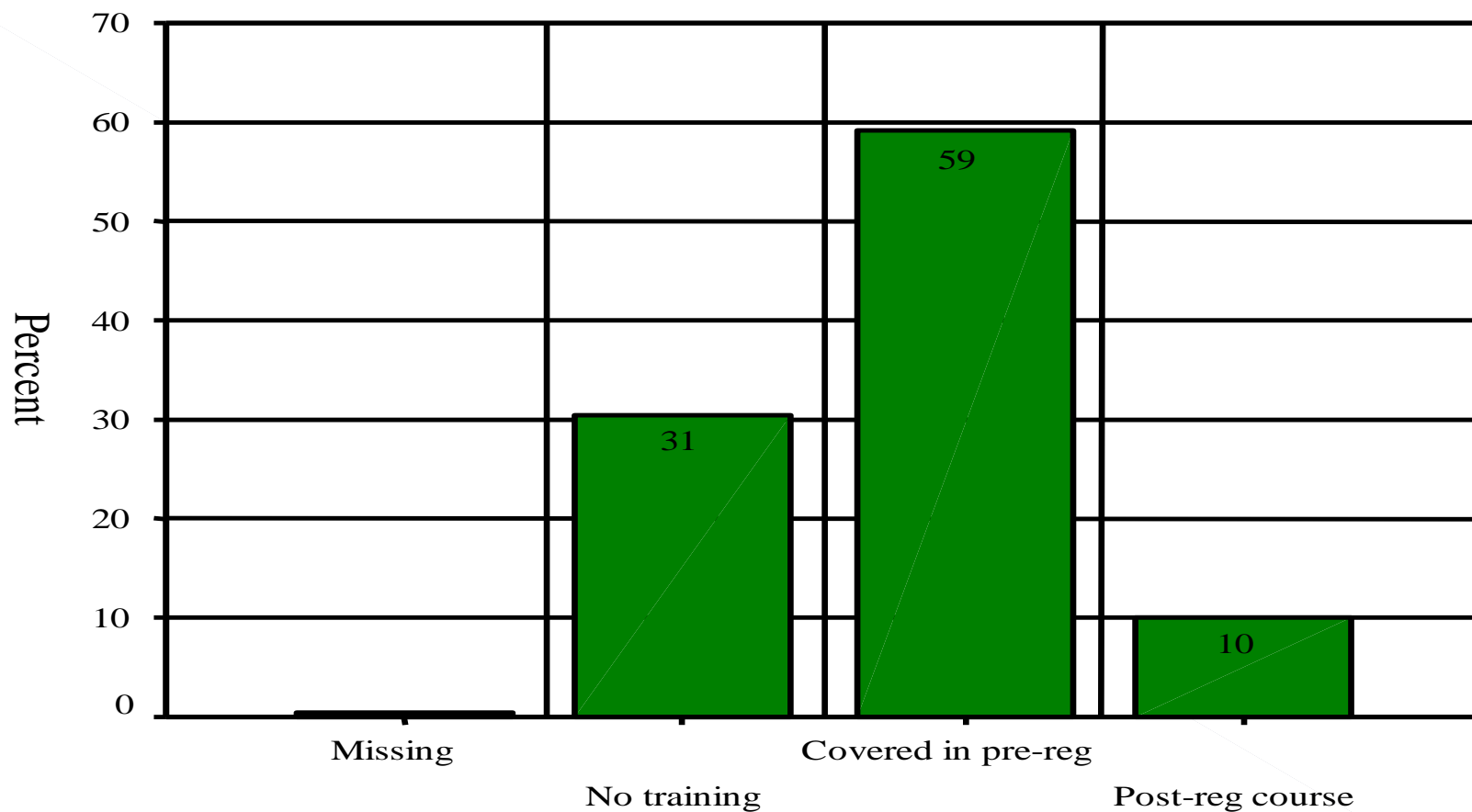


Grade

Graduate Status



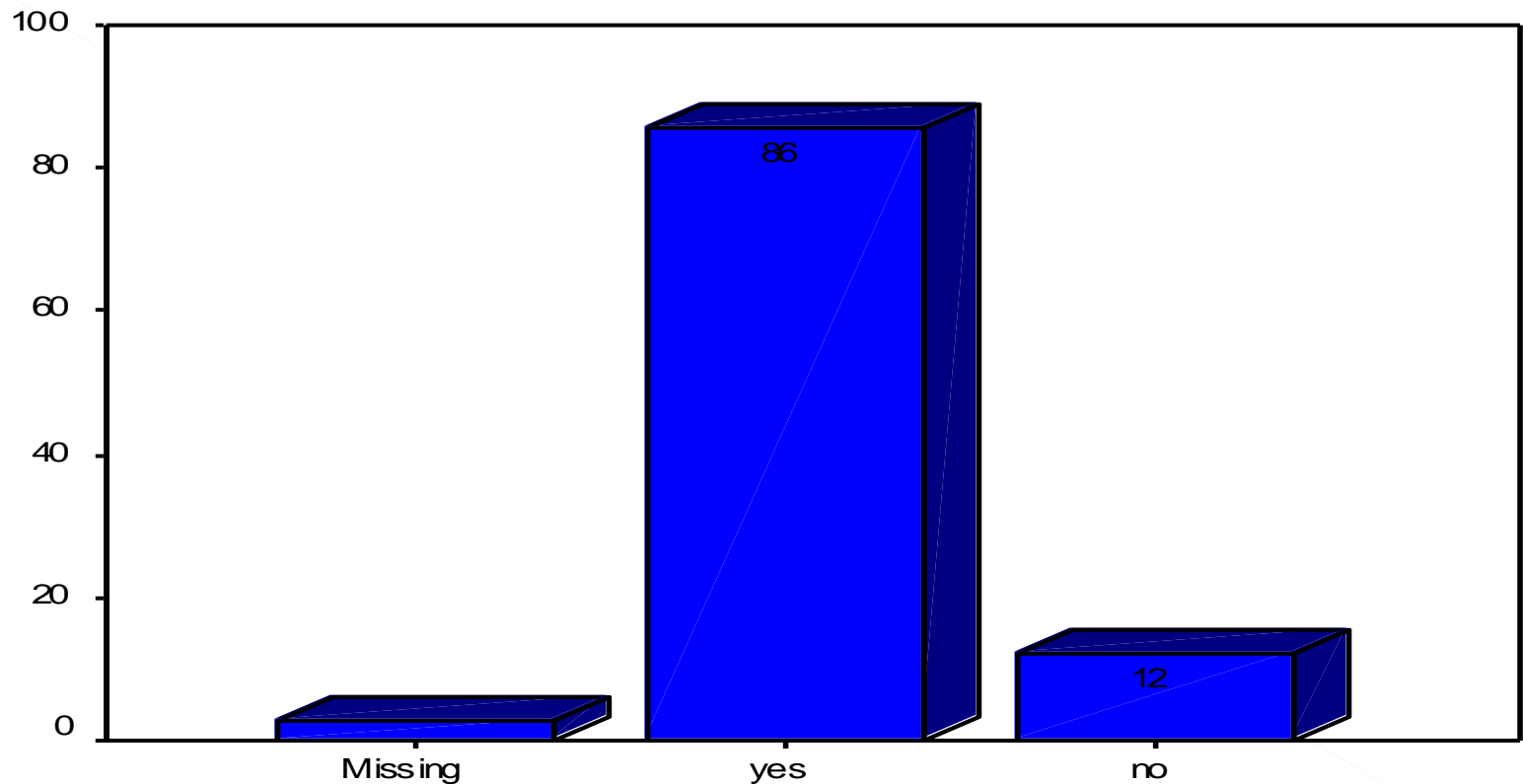
Prior Training



Learning disability training

Training Required?

Is a stand alone module required?

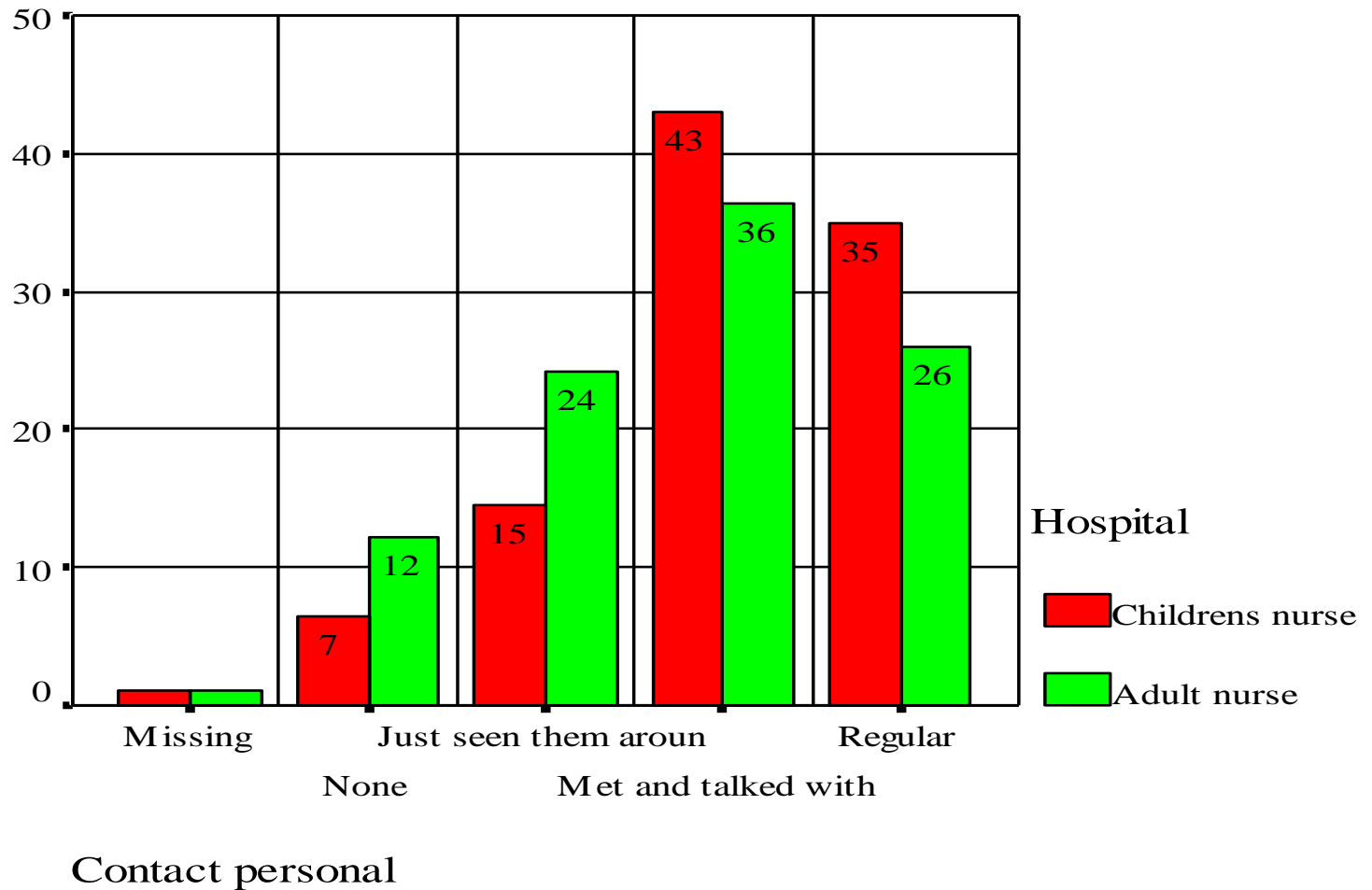


Stand alone module

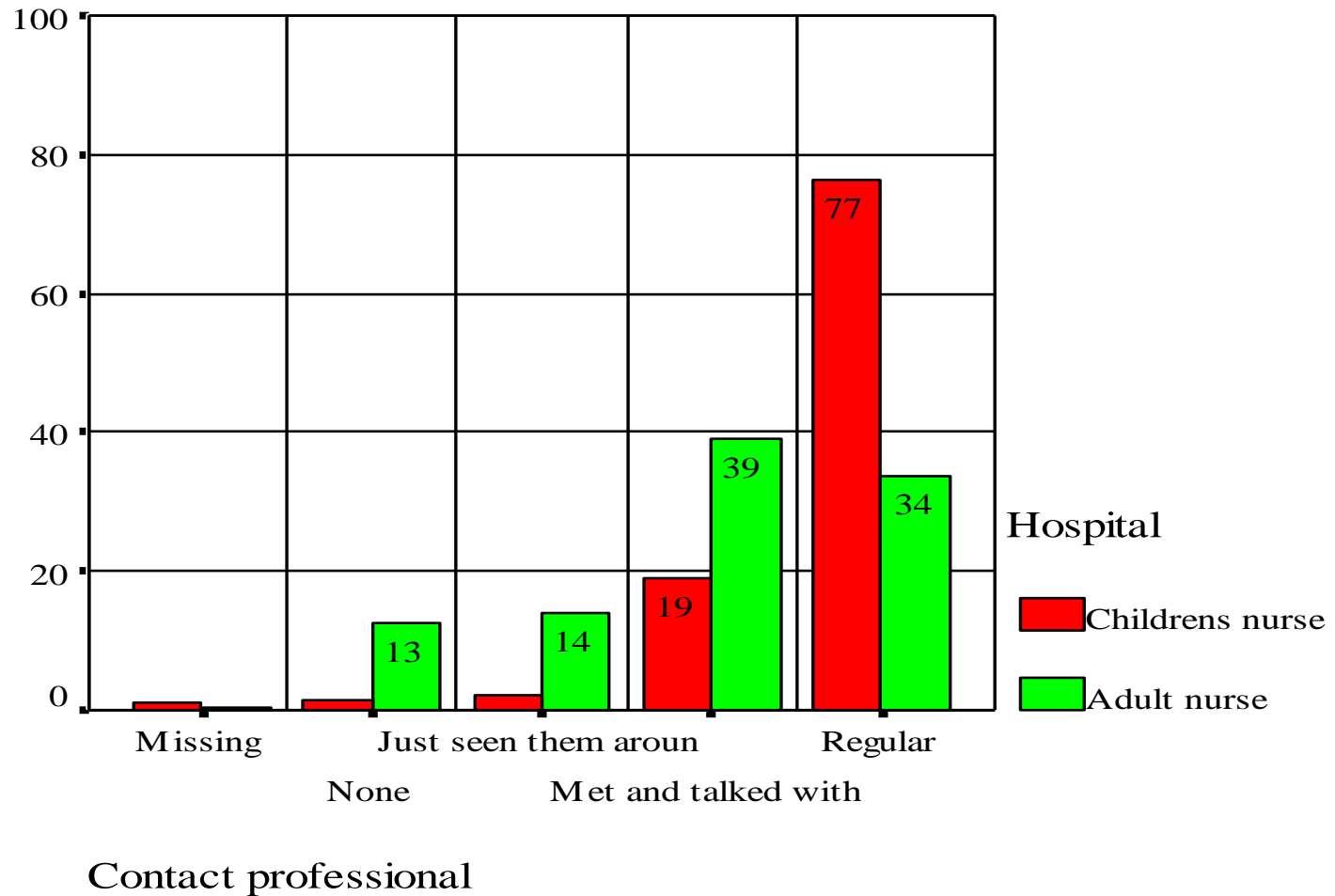
What Should Be in the Training?

C.W.C.		Communicating with children	91%	
B.M.		Behaviour management	84%	
P.O.D.		Patterns of development	66%	
D.W.S.		Dealing with siblings	66%	
D.W.P.		Dealing with parents	66%	
Ep		Epilepsy	53%	
Cont		Continence	30%	

Personal Contact



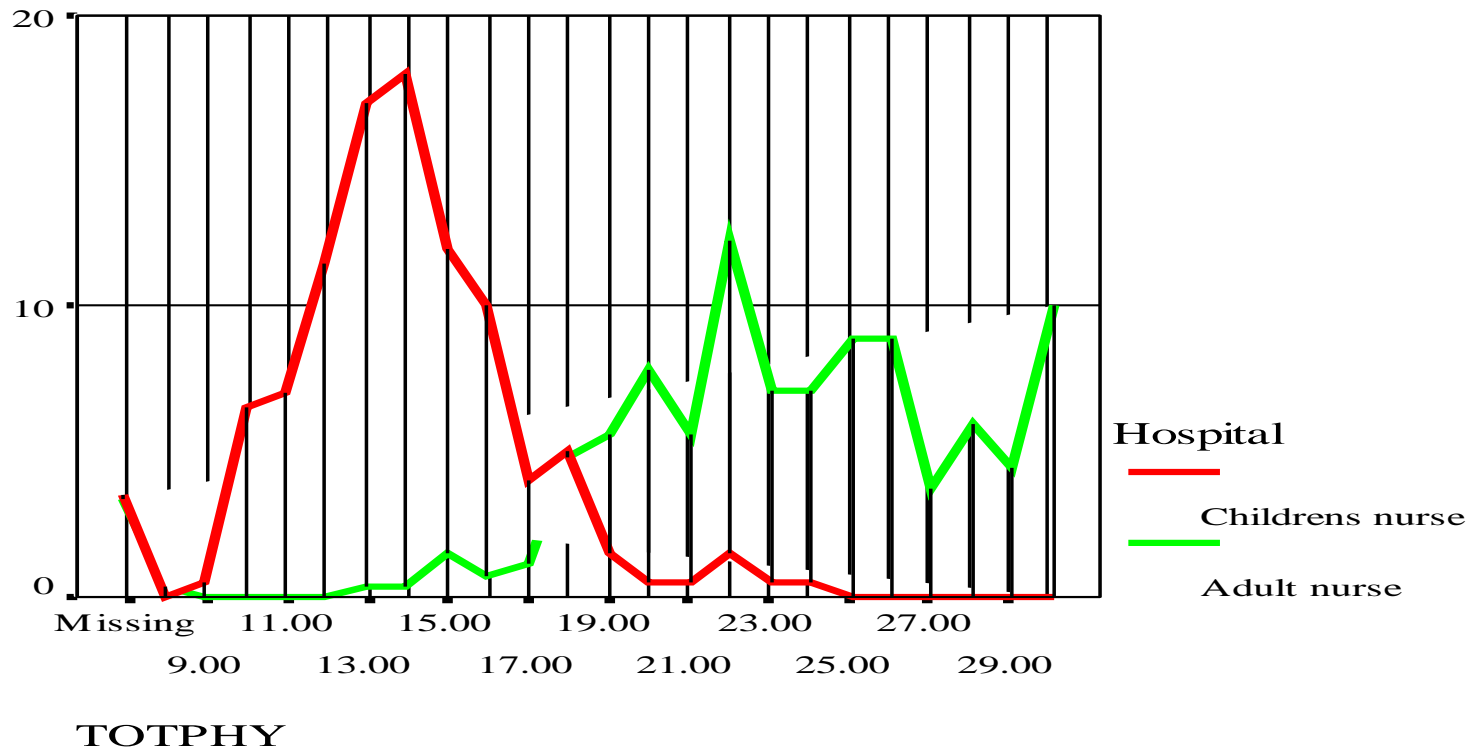
Professional Contact



The Attitude Scales

- Two six item scales measuring attitudes to caring for children with physical disability and learning disability
- One ten point attitude scale measuring general attitudes to people with disability
- Individual items were totalled to produce an overall score amenable to analysis

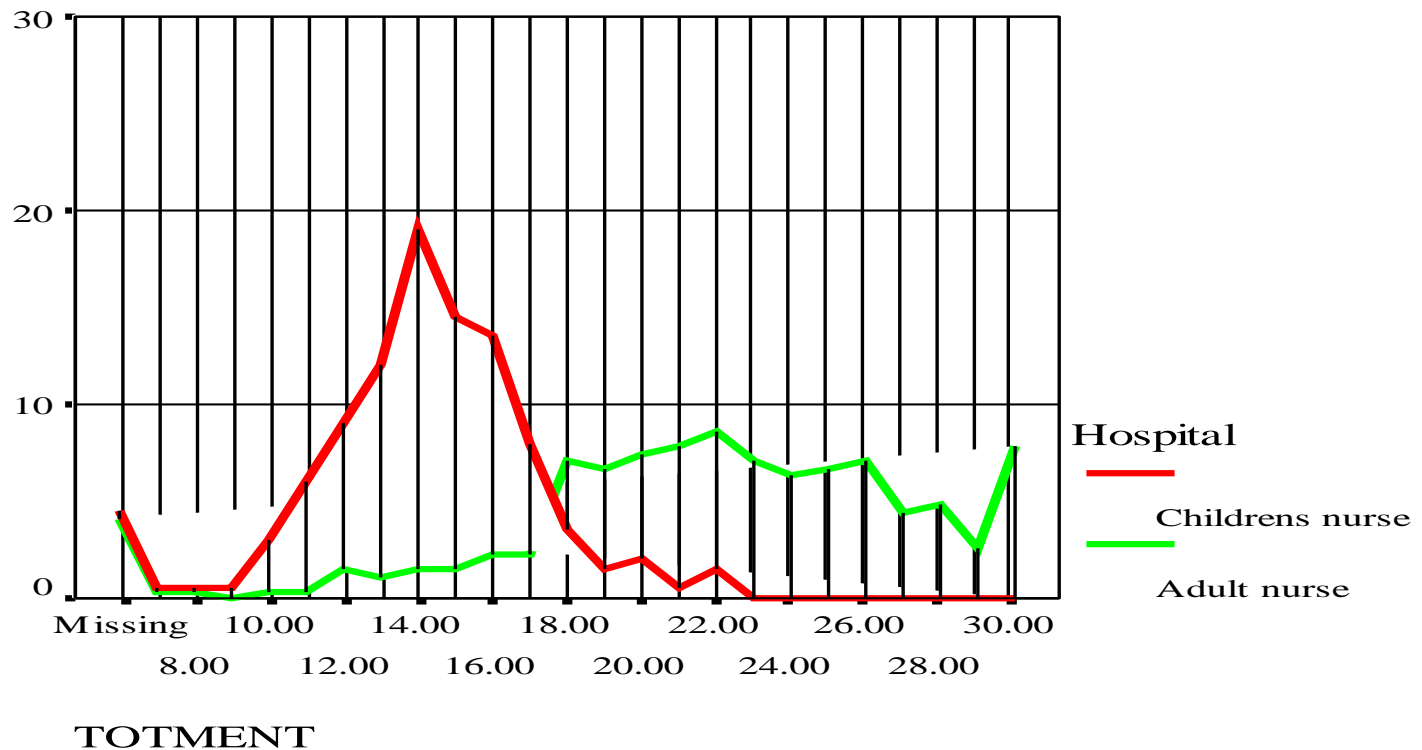
Caring for Children With a Physical Disability



Group Statistics

		N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean
TOTPHY	Hospital				
	Childrens nurse	193	14.1036	2.65354	.19101
	Adult nurse	260	23.6500	4.08177	.25314

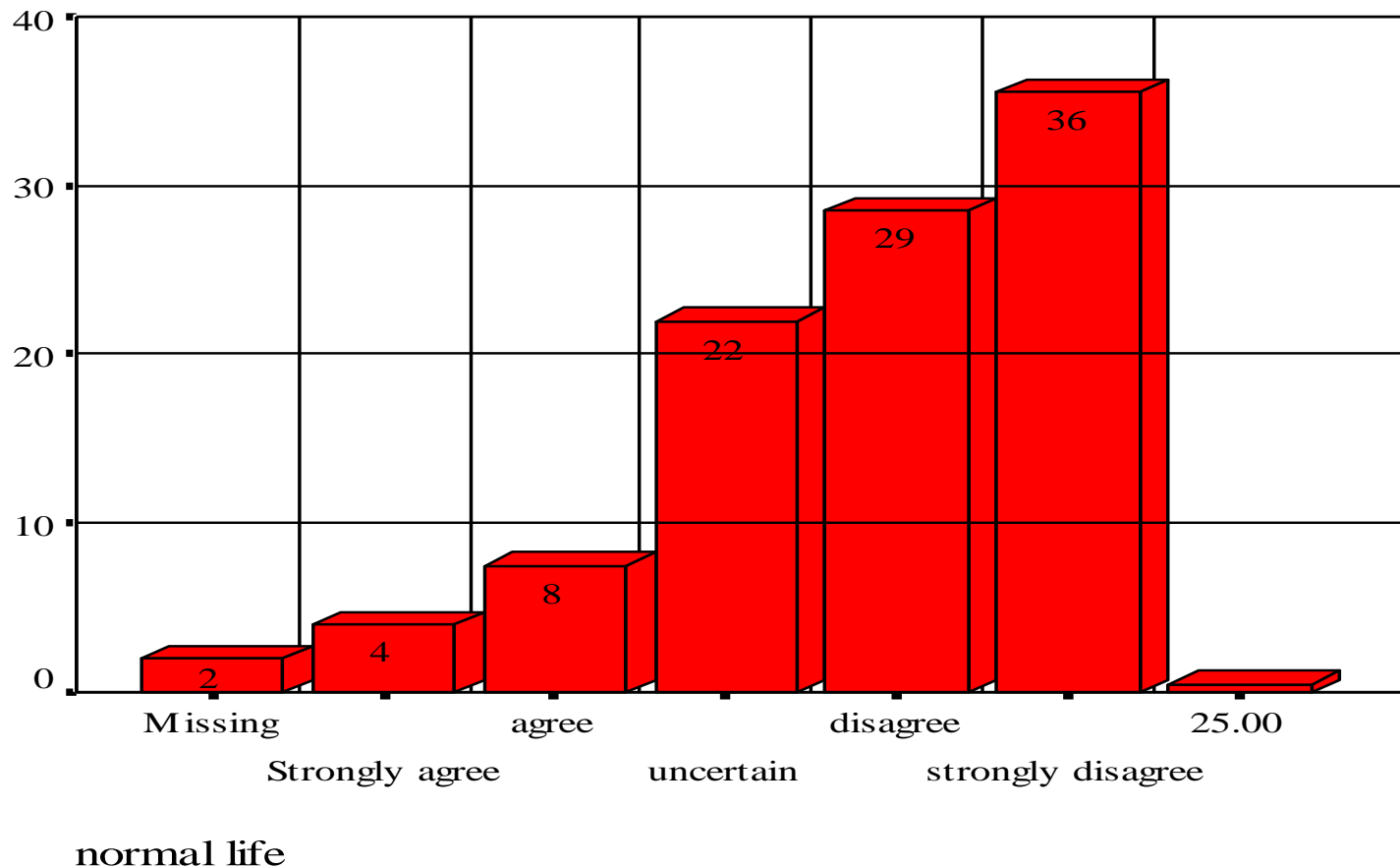
Caring for Children With a Learning/developmental Disability



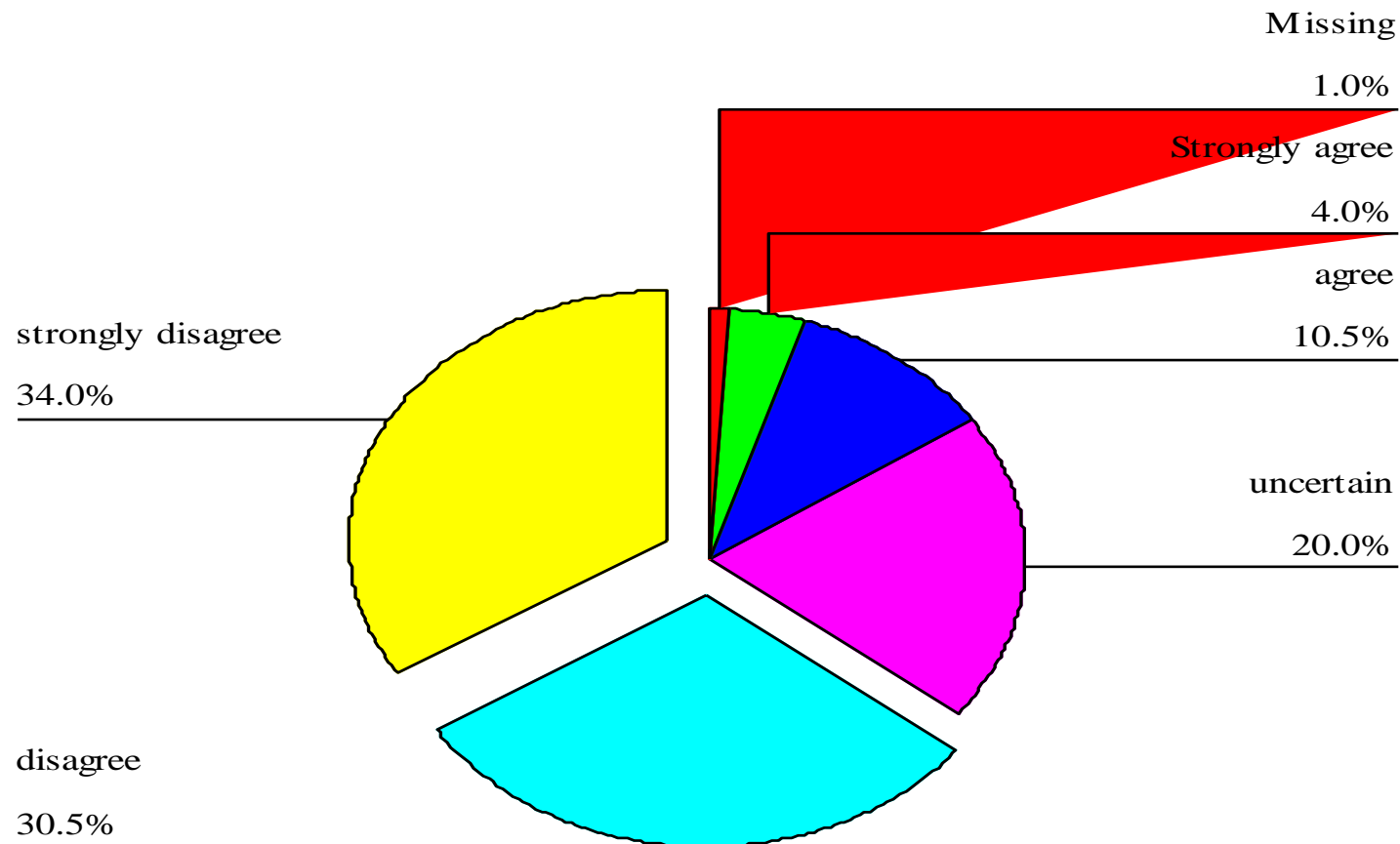
Group Statistics

	Hospital	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean
TOTMENT	Childrens nurse	191	14.4712	2.55012	.18452
	Adult nurse	258	22.3915	4.71502	.29354

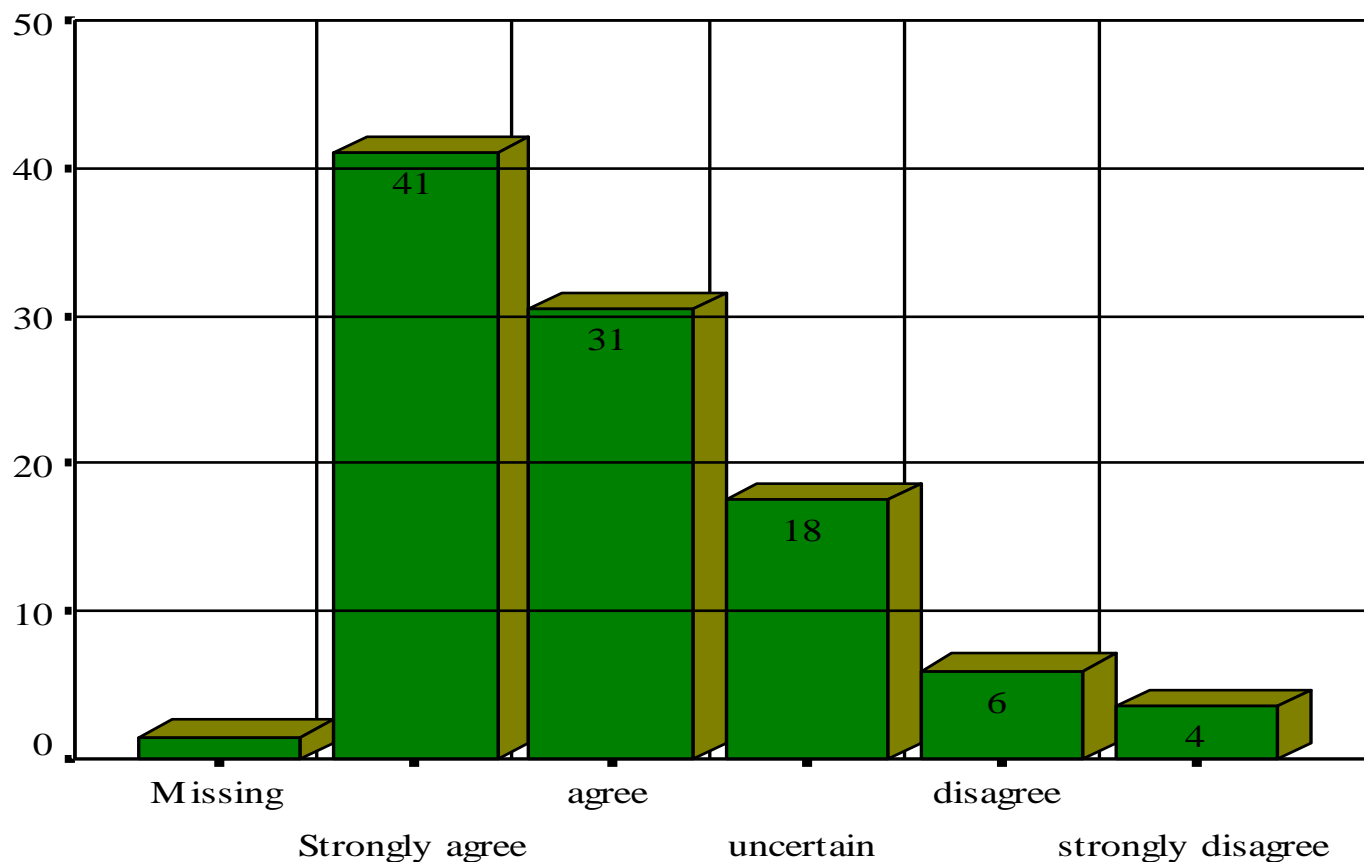
Children With a Learning/developmental Disability Cannot Lead a Normal Social Life



You Should Not Expect Too Much From Children With Disabilities

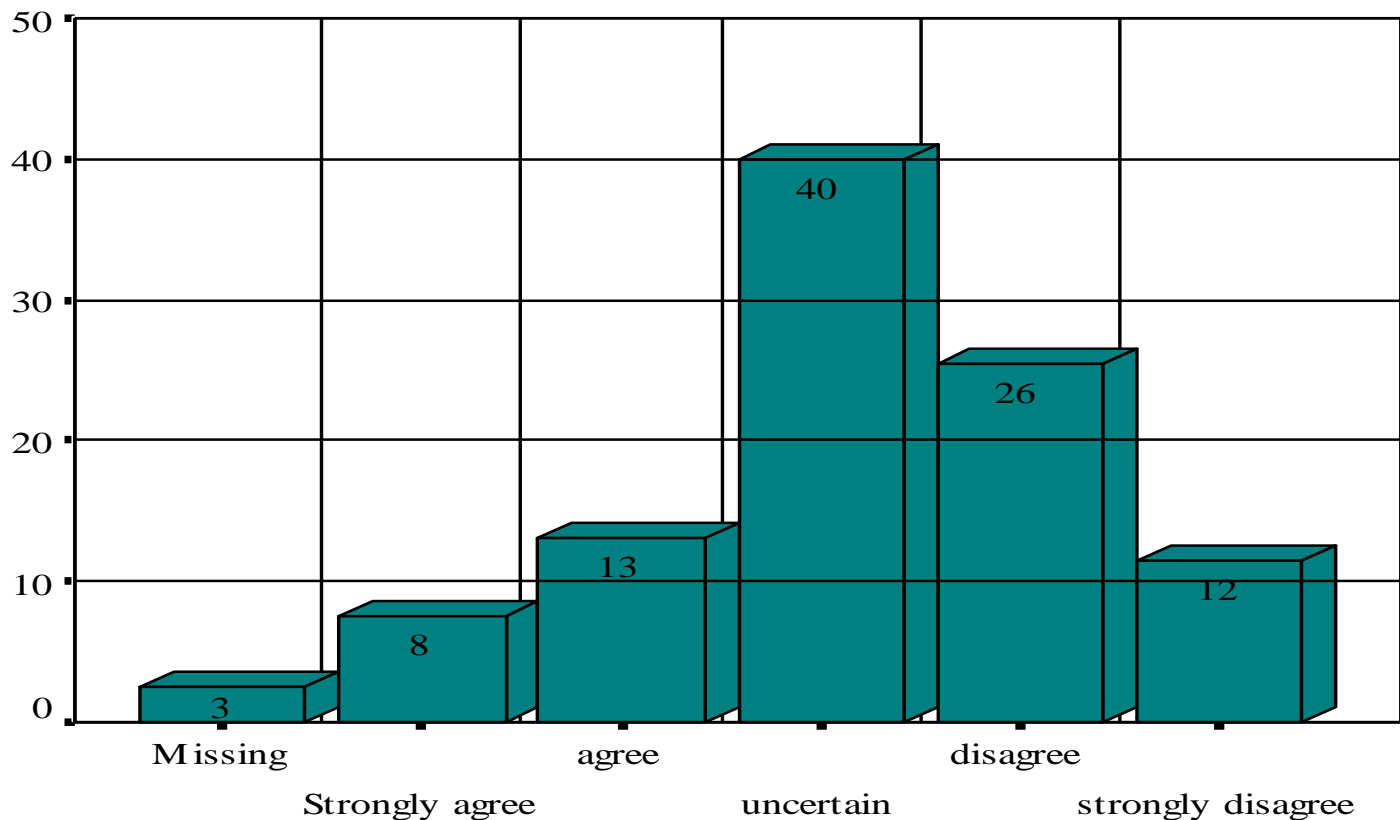


Children With Disabilities Are Just As Happy As 'Normal' Children



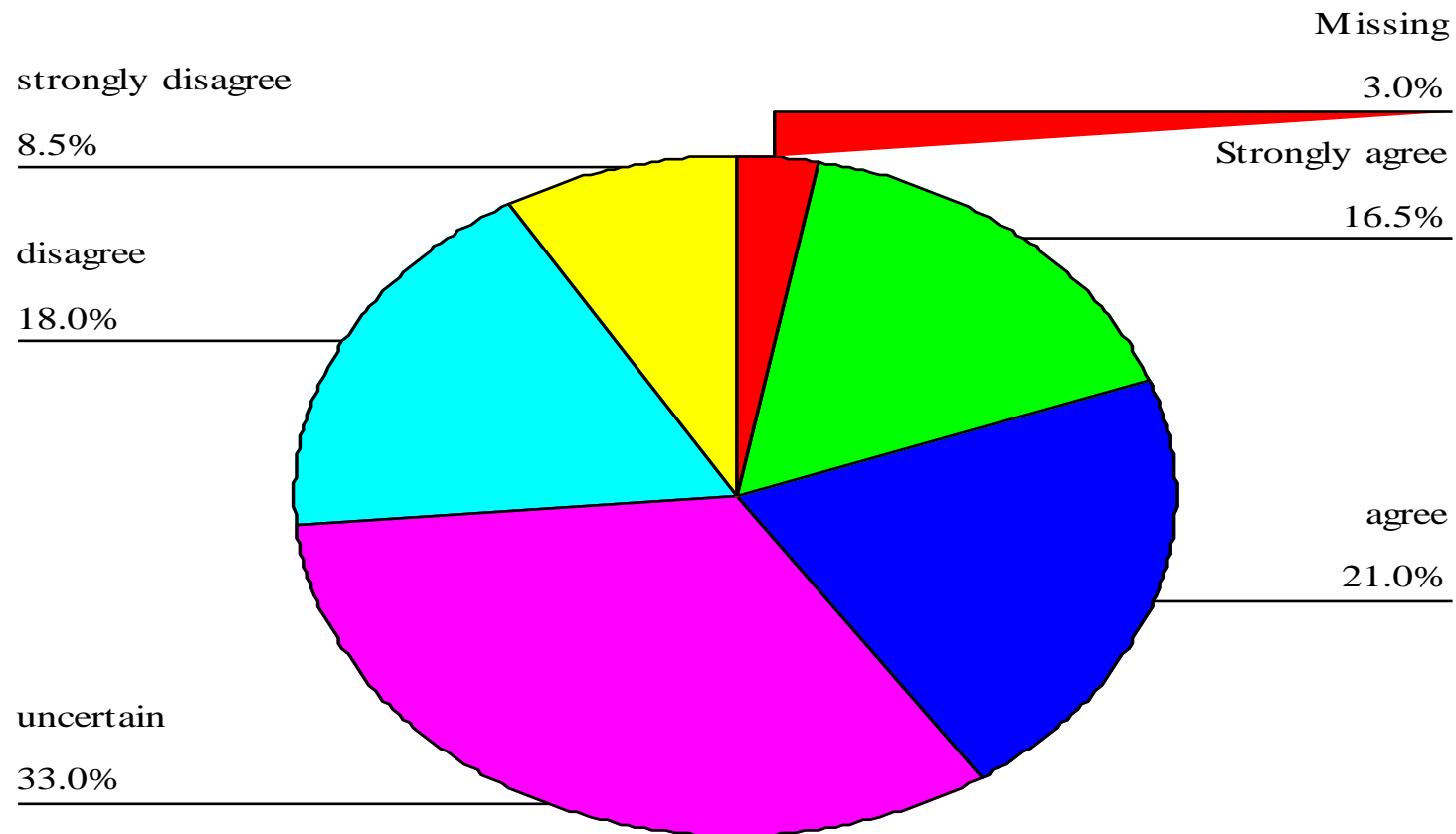
just as happy as normal children

Ultimately Children With Disabilities Should Be Discouraged From Having Children

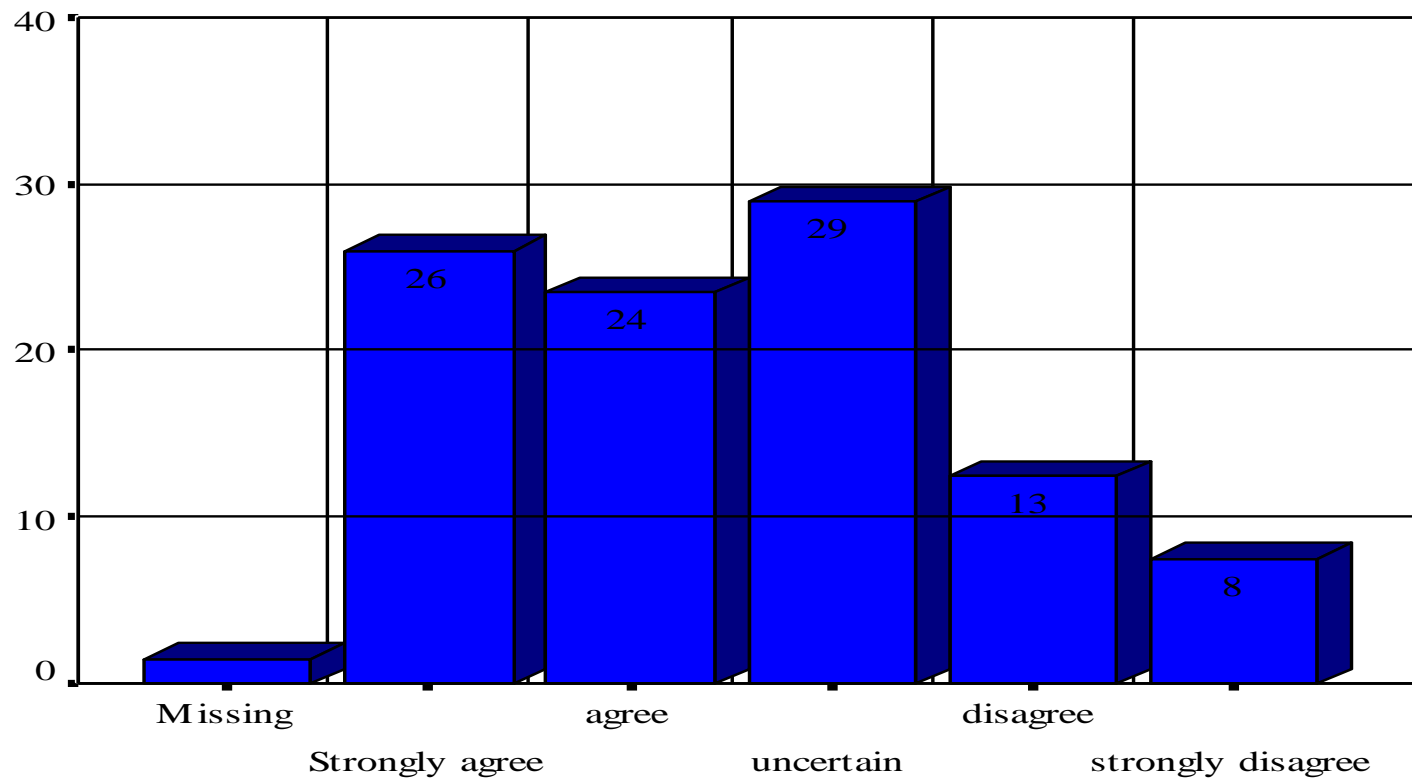


discouraged from reproduction

Children With Disabilities Can Meet Similar Developmental Goals to Other Children

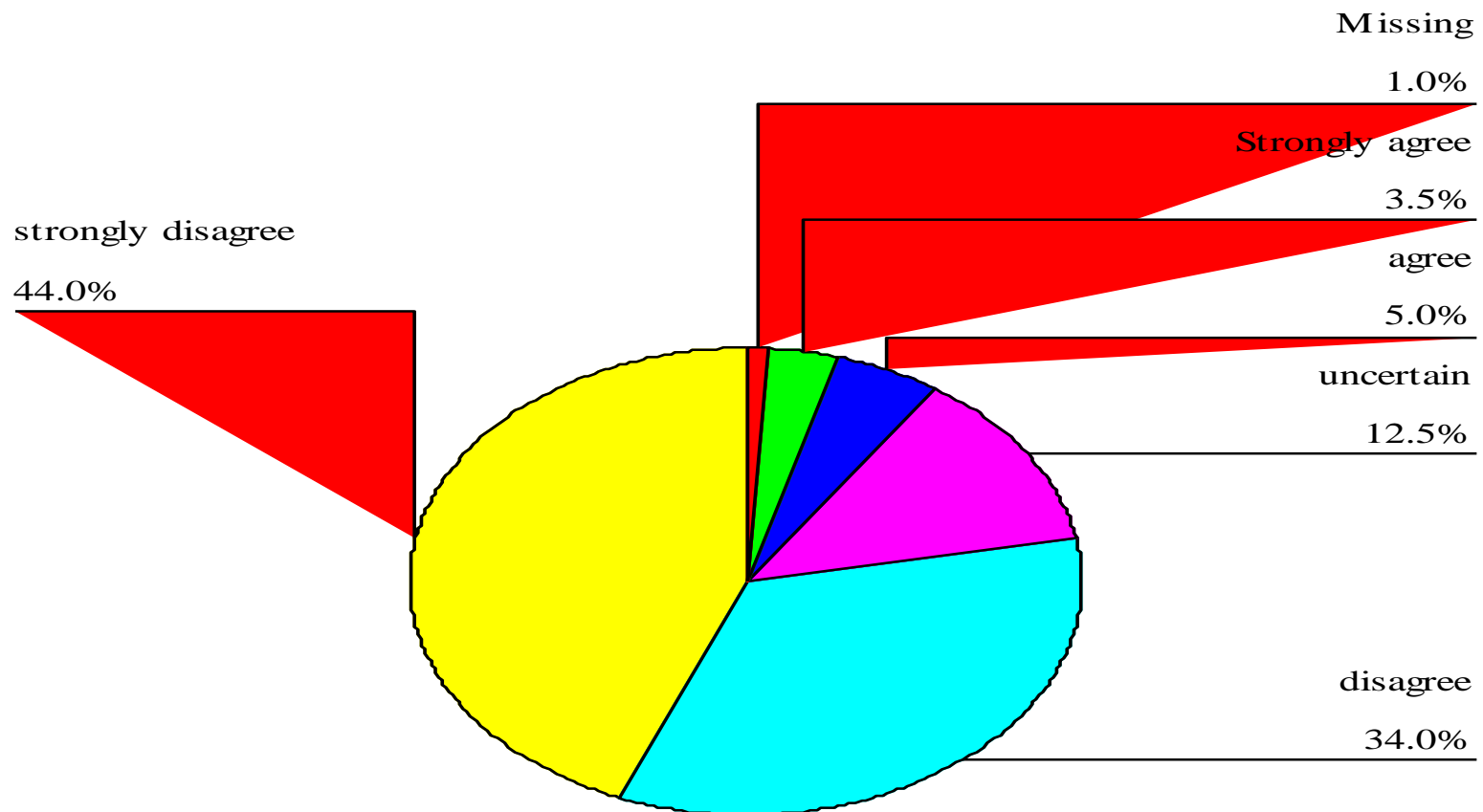


Children With Disabilities Should Be Nursed by a Nurse With a Specialist Qualification

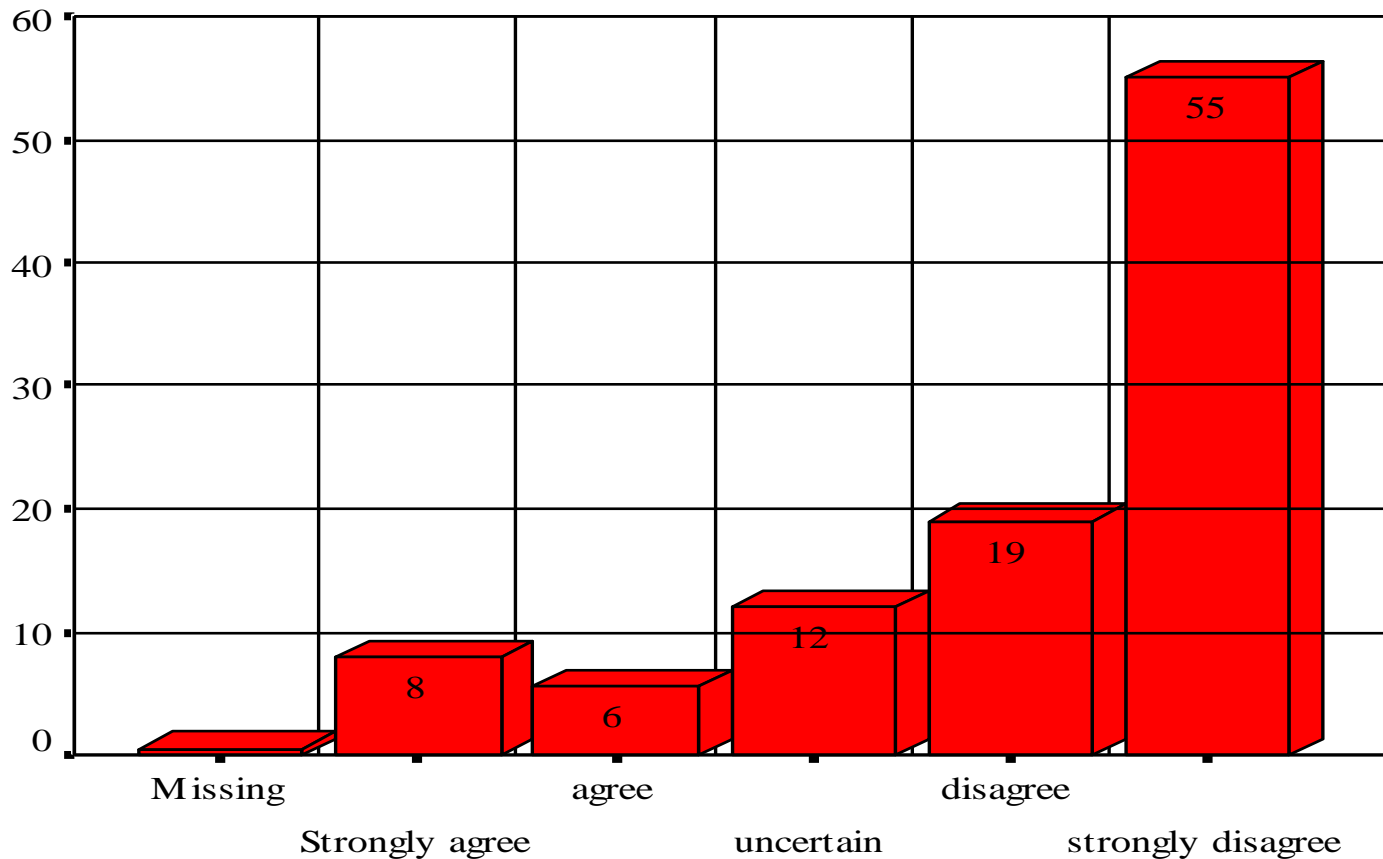


nursed by spec qualification

They Do Not Need to Cared for by the Government More Than Other People

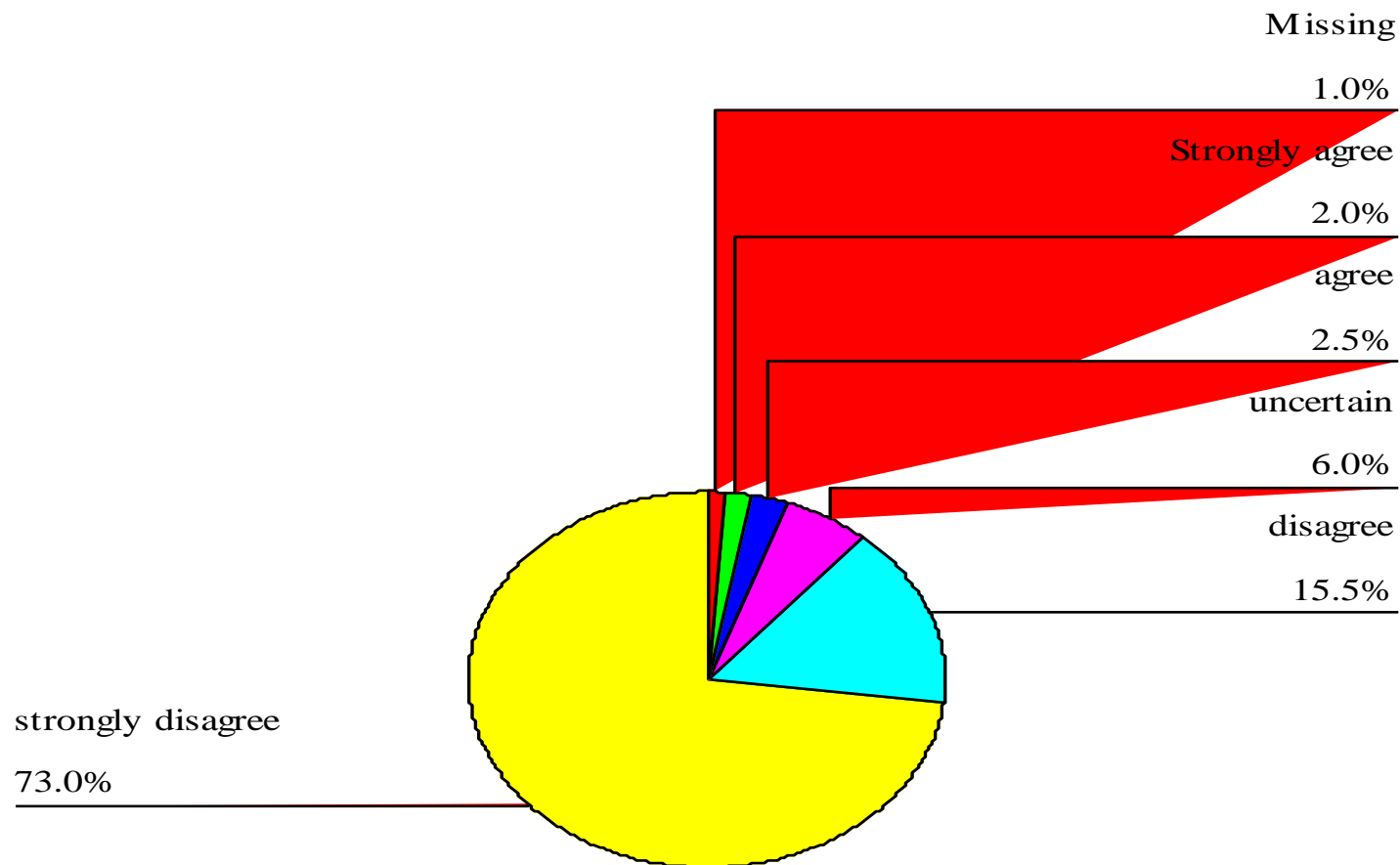


There Should Not Be Specialised Schools for People With Learning/developmental Disabilities

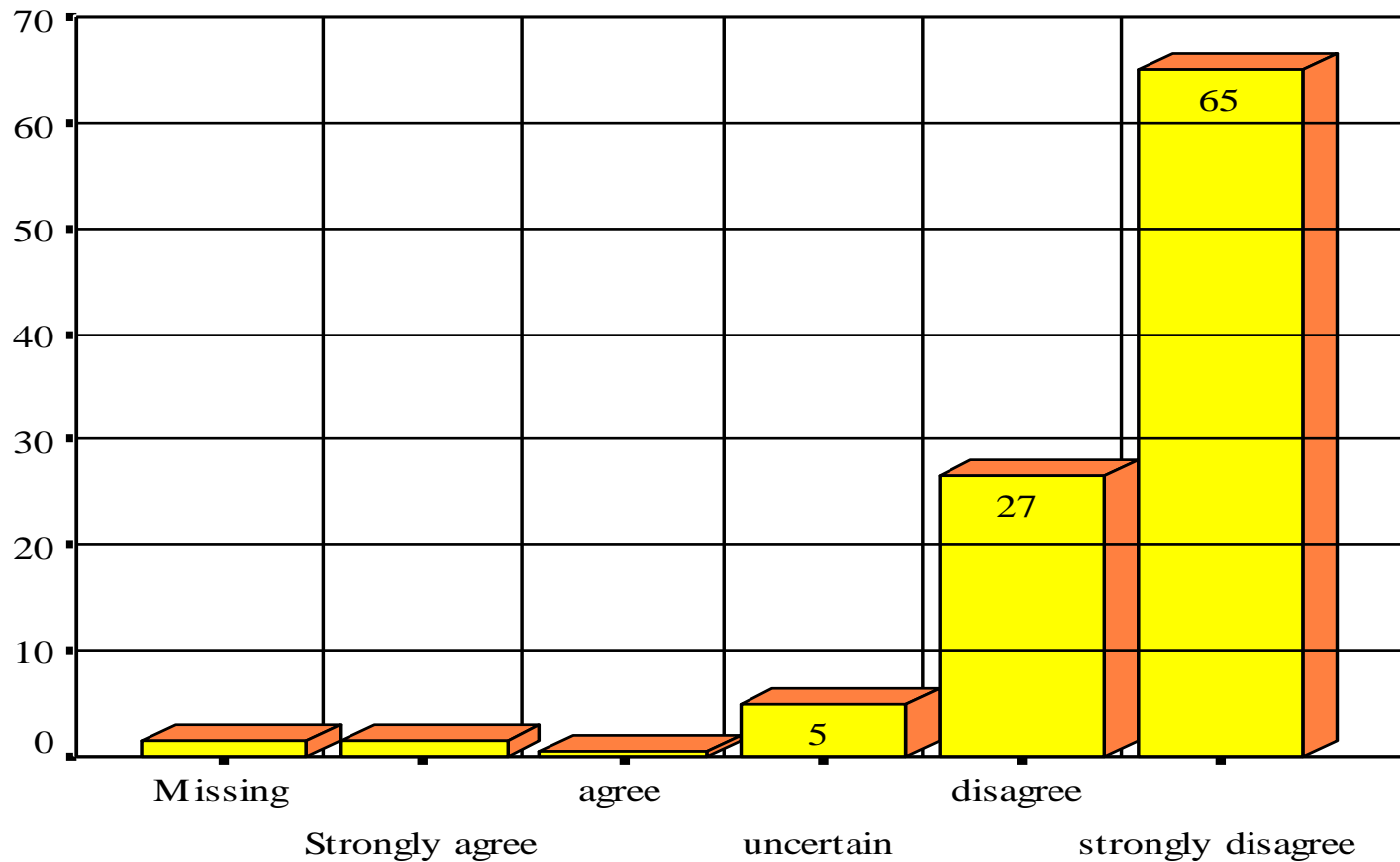


not be specialised schools

Children With Disabilities Should Be Nursed in a Side Ward



Parents of Children With Disabilities Should Be Less Strict Than Other Parents



parents less strict

Conclusion

- Hypothesized fears of children's needs not being met were shown to be unfounded in that attitudes amongst nursing staff were positive to this group
- Findings from the attitude scale showed an overall positive attitude to caring for children with disabilities
- Some findings appeared contradictory

Limitations

- Inherent difficulties with attitude measurement



Next Steps

- More research!
- Change of methodology: qualitative, interviews or focus groups
- Change of approach:
- Talk to parents and the children as opposed to staff